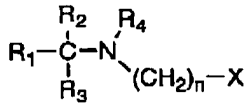
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A compound of the Formula I



Formula I

wherein:

R_1 is $(CH_2)_mCH_3$ where m is 0 or an integer in the range from 1 to 16, or an alkenyl, alkynyl, alkoxy, alkylthio, or alkyl sulfinyl group having from 2 to 17 carbon atoms, wherein R_1 may be optionally substituted with one or more substituents selected from hydroxy, aldehyde, oxo, lower acyloxy, halogen, thio, sulfoxide and sulfone,

R_2 is H, CH_3 or CH_2CH_3,

R_3 is H or CH_3,

R_4 is H or CH_3,

n is an integer in the range from 1 to 3,

X is carboxyl (COOH), ~~carbalkoxy ($COOR_5$) or 5-tetrazole,~~

~~R_5 is lower alkyl having from 1 to 5 carbon atoms,~~ and

R_1, R_2 and R_3 are each different so that the carbon atom to which they are attached is chiral and the compound of Formula I is a substantially pure enantiomer in the R or S configuration or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. (Currently amended) A compound of the Formula I according to claim 1 wherein:

R_1 is $(CH_2)_mCH_3$ where m is 0 or an integer in the range from 1 to 16,

R_2 is CH_3,

R_3 is H,

R_4 is H or CH_3,

n is an integer in the range from 1 to 3, and

X is carboxyl (COOH), ~~carbalkoxy ($COOR_5$) or 5-tetrazole, and~~

~~R_5 is lower alkyl having from 1 to 5 carbon atoms,~~

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

3. (Currently amended) A compound of the Formula I according to claim 1 wherein:

R_1 is $(CH_2)_mCH_3$ where m is 0 or an integer in the range from 1 to 16,

R_2 is CH_3,

R_3 is H,

R_4 is H or CH_3,

n is an integer in the range from 1 to 3, and

X is carboxyl (COOH), ~~carbalkoxy ($COOR_5$) or 5-tetrazole, and~~

~~R_5 is lower alkyl having from 1 to 5 carbon atoms,~~

as a substantially pure enantiomer in the R-configuration, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

4. (Currently amended) A compound of the formula I according to claim 1 wherein:

R_1 is $(CH_2)_mCH_3$ where m is 0 or an integer in the range from 1 to 16,

R_2 is CH_3,

R_3 is H,

R_4 is H or CH_3,

n is an integer in the range from 1 to 3, and

X is carboxyl (COOH), ~~carbalkoxy ($COOR_5$) or 5-tetrazole, and~~

~~R_5 is lower alkyl having from 1 to 5 carbon atoms,~~

as a substantially pure enantiomer in the S-configuration, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

5. (Currently amended) A compound according to claim 3, wherein said compound of formula I is selected from the group consisting of:
(R)-3-(2-Heptylamino)propionic acid; and
(R)-3-[N-(2-Heptyl)-N-methylamino]propionic acid;
~~Methyl (R)-3-(2-heptylamino)propionate;~~
~~Methyl (R)-3-[N-(2-heptyl)-N-methylamino]propionate; and~~
~~(R)-2-(2-Heptylamino)ethane-5-tetrazole~~.

6. (Currently amended) A compound according to claim 4, wherein said compound of formula I is selected from the group consisting of:
(S)-2-(2-Heptylamino)acetic acid; and
(S)-2-[N-(2-Heptyl)-N-methylamino]acetic acid;
~~Methyl (S)-2-(2-heptylamino)acetate; and~~
~~Methyl (S)-2-[N-(2-Heptyl)-N-methylamino]acetate~~.

7. (Currently amended) A compound selected from the group consisting of:
2-(1-Hexylmethylamino)acetic acid; and
3-[N-(2-Propyl)-N-methylamino]propionic acid;
~~Methyl 2-[N-(2-propyl)-N-methylamino]acetate;~~
~~Methyl 2-[N-(1-hexyl)-N-methylamino]acetate; and~~
~~Methyl 3-[N-(1-hexyl)-N-methylamino]propionate~~.

8. (Previously amended) A compound according to claim 1 in the form of a hydrochloride salt.

9. (Previously amended) A compound according to claim 1 wherein m is an integer from 1 to 12.

10. (Previously amended) A compound according to claim 1 wherein m is an integer from 1 to 9.

11. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition ~~for the treatment of a disease in which cell death occurs by apoptosis, which composition comprises~~ comprising ~~an effective amount of~~ a compound having the formula I as claimed in claim 1 in admixture with a suitable diluent or carrier.

12. (Currently amended) A composition according to claim 11, wherein:
R_1 is $(CH_2)_mCH_3$ where m is 0 or an integer in the range from 1 to 16,
R_2 is CH_3,
R_3 is H,
R_4 is H or CH_3,
n is an integer in the range from 1 to 3, and
X is carboxyl (COOH)~~, carbalkoxy ($COOR_5$) or 5-tetrazole, and~~
~~R_5 = lower alkyl having from 1 to 5 carbon atoms~~.

13. (Currently amended) A composition according to claim 11, wherein said compound of formula I is selected from the group consisting of:
(R)-3-(2-Heptylamino)propionic acid; and
(R)-3-[N-(2-Heptyl)-N-methylamino]propionic acid~~;~~
~~Methyl (R) 3 (2 heptylamino)propionate;~~
~~Methyl (R) 3 [N (2 Heptyl) N methylamino]propionate; and~~
~~(R) 2 (2 Heptylamino)ethane 5 tetrazole~~.

14. (Currently amended) A composition according to claim 11, wherein said compound of formula I is selected from the group consisting of:
(S)-2-(2-Heptylamino)acetic acid; and

(S)-2-[N-(2-Heptyl)-N-methylamino]acetic acid~~;~~

~~Methyl (S) 2 (2 heptylamino)acetate; and~~

~~Methyl (S) 2 [N (2 heptyl) N methylamino]acetate~~.

15. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition ~~for the treatment of a disease in which cell death occurs by apoptosis, which composition comprises an effective amount of~~ comprising a compound selected from the group consisting of:

2-[N-(1-Hexyl)-N-methylamino]acetic acid; and

3-[N-(2-Propyl)-N-methylamino]propionic acid~~;~~

~~Methyl 2 [N (2 Propyl) N methylamino]acetate;~~

~~Methyl 2 [N (1 Hexyl) N methylamino]acetate; and~~

~~Methyl 3 [N (1 Hexyl) N methylamino]propionate~~

in admixture with a suitable diluent or carrier.

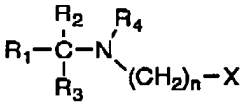
16. (Previously amended) A composition according to claim 11, wherein the compound of formula I is in the form of a hydrochloride salt.

17.-23. (Previously cancelled)

24.-29. (Currently cancelled)

30.-31. (Previously cancelled)

17 ~~32.~~ (Currently amended) A method for the treatment of a disease in which cell death occurs by apoptosis comprising administering an effective amount of a compound of formula I to an animal in need thereof, wherein said compound of formula I is:



Formula I

wherein:

R_1 is $(CH_2)_mCH_3$ where m is 0 or an integer in the range from 1 to 16, or an alkenyl, alkynyl, alkoxy, alkylthio, or alkyl sulfinyl group having from 2 to 17 carbon atoms, wherein R_1 may be optionally substituted with one or more substituents selected from hydroxy, aldehyde, oxo, lower acyloxy, halogen, thio, sulfoxide and sulfone,

R_2 is H, CH_3 or CH_2CH_3,

R_3 is H or CH_3,

R_4 is H or CH_3,

n is an integer in the range from 1 to 3, and

X is carboxyl (COOH), ~~carbalkoxy ($COOR_5$) or 5-tetrazole, and~~

~~R_5 is lower alkyl having 1 to 5 carbon atoms,~~

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and wherein the disease is selected from the group consisting of stroke, head trauma, Bell's palsy, spinal cord injury, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, Pick's disease, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, Huntington's disease, multiple sclerosis, cardiac myopathies, nephropathy, retinopathy, diabetic complications, glaucoma and idiopathic neuropathies.

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~~33.~~ (Previously presented) A method according to claim 32, for the treatment of a human.

34. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 32, wherein

R_1 is $(CH_2)_mCH_3$ where m is 0 or an integer in the range from 1 to 16,

R_2 is CH_3,

R_3 is H,

R_4 is H or CH_3,

n is an integer in the range from 1 to 3, and

X is carboxyl (COOH), ~~carbalkoxy ($COOR_5$) or 5-tetrazole, and~~

~~R_5 is lower alkyl having 1 to 5 carbon atoms,~~

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

19 ~~35.~~ (Currently amended) A method according to claim 32 wherein said compound of Formula I is selected from the group consisting of:

2-(2-Propylamino)acetic acid;

2-(1-Hexylamino)acetic acid;

(S)-2-(2-Heptylamino)acetic acid;

3-(2-Propylamino)propionic acid;

3-(1-Hexylamino)propionic acid;

(R)-3-(2-Heptylamino)propionic acid;

2-[N-Methyl-N-(2-propyl)amino]acetic acid;

2-[N-(1-Hexyl)-N-methylamino]acetic acid;

(S)-2-[N-(2-Heptyl)-N-methylamino]acetic acid;

3-[N-(2-Propyl)-N-methylamino]propionic acid;

3-[N-(1-Hexyl)-N-methylamino]propionic acid; and

(R)-3-[N-(2-Heptyl)-N-methylamino]propionic acid~~;~~

~~and~~

~~(R) 2 (2 Heptylamino)ethane-5-tetrazole~~.